

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO WENDY ADAMS

#### HON. JON C. PORTER—

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wendy Adams who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field as a Registered Nurse.

Wendy began her nursing career in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1967 as a nurse's aide at Holy Cross Hospital while completing her education. In 1971, Wendy completed her studies and began her tenure as a staff nurse at Sunrise Hospital Medical Center. Wendy was hired by Valley Hospital Medical Center as a staff nurse in 1974 and was subsequently named a Charge Nurse. In 1980, she returned to Sunrise Hospital Medical Center and worked as a Head Nurse until 1983. Wendy was asked to return to Valley Hospital in 1983 and has worked continuously as a Head Nurse, Manager, and Director.

Wendy's entire nursing career has been defined by a commitment to excellence and dedication to serving the patients first. Wendy balances good patient care with fiscal responsibility and ensure that all her patients are satisfied.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Wendy Adams. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Wendy for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF KURT J. DOYLE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

#### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Kurt J. Doyle of Defiance, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Kurt's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Kurt brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming

class of West Point cadets. While attending Defiance High School in Defiance, Ohio, Kurt attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Kurt has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Kurt has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, High School Marching Band and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Kurt has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, he has earned varsity letters in swimming and soccer where he served as the captain of the varsity team. He also remained involved in his community by serving as a camp counselor for middle school students and as a tutor for elementary students. Kurt's dedication and service to the community and his peers have proven his ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Kurt will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kurt J. Doyle on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Kurt will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAT TAYLOR FOR HIS 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL IN MOBILE

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Dr. Pat Taylor for his many years of service to the students of St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

Pat has dedicated the past 34 years of his life to the students and community of St. Paul's, serving as a teacher, division director and assistant headmaster, and his presence will certainly be missed as he leaves St. Paul's to be the new headmaster of Jackson Academy in Mississippi.

Pat's contributions to education are numerous, but perhaps he will be remembered most for his role in founding Mobile's Underage Drinking Task Force—a citizens group that has publicized the problem of underage drinking and works to educate students about the dangers of alcohol.

Mobile's Press-Register even editorialized about Pat saying he "will leave in Mobile a

legacy of caring about teens that will be a guide for others in the future."

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Dr. Pat Taylor and to commend him for his hard work and dedication to the students of Mobile. He is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to education, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on the occasion of his new position as headmaster. I know Pat's family and many friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending heartfelt thanks for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Mobile and Alabama's First Congressional District.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF JANE ARMSTRONG FRIEDMANN

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to pay my respects to my friend Janee Armstrong Friedmann, who passed away on March 21. Janee was an outstanding and generous woman whose dedication to the Greater Springfield community will continue to be felt for years to come.

I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today a biography of Janee Armstrong Friedmann to honor her memory and to preserve her many accomplishments and contributions in the annals of our Nation's history. She is sorely missed by all who knew her.

JANE ARMSTRONG FRIEDMANN, JANUARY 11, 1937–MARCH 21, 2007

Arts and social service organizations in Greater Springfield owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Janee Armstrong Friedmann.

Not only was Janee a generous supporter in her own right, she inspired others to give as well. Janee's reputation as a fundraiser was such that, when she called a potential donor, they answered with their checkbook in hand.

During her many years as a volunteer and trustee with the Springfield Library & Museums Association, Janee always took a leadership role in fundraising efforts. It was during her tenure as Chairman of the Board of Trustees that the Association launched the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history—the \$11 million Quadrangle Capital Campaign for improvements to Springfield's four museums and nine libraries. She was part of the team that brought in the successful campaign nearly \$3 million over its goal. She served on and chaired the Association's Development Committee, inspiring other volunteers to actively participate in fundraising. She chaired the Society of William Rice, the Association's highest category of private donors, and has solicited most of its 123 members personally, raising more than \$160,000 annually for more than a decade.

Janee was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on January 11, 1937, the daughter of the late F. Thoburn and Sara Northrup Armstrong. She was educated at Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, Pennsylvania, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

furthered her education at Bryn Mawr College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, with Magna Cum Laude distinction. Janee later obtained her Master's Degree in Education at Temple University and another Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

Janee is survived by her devoted husband of 45 years, Dr. Paul Friedmann, of Longmeadow, her two daughters, Pamela Erica Armstrong Friedmann, of Washington, DC, and Cynthia Armstrong Friedmann Campbell and her husband Robert, of Columbia, South Carolina. Janee is also survived by her adored grandson, Fitzwilliam Colin Campbell.

Larry A. McDermott, publisher of The Republican, said that with Friedmann's passing, the region has lost a devoted and impassioned voice for the arts and education.

"Janee, the epitome of grace and intellect, had a strength matched only by her wisdom and compassion. We are grateful for her efforts to make Western Massachusetts a better place in which to live."

Joseph Carvalho III, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Springfield Museums, said Friedmann had touched every aspect of the Museums from fundraising for Capital Campaigns to assisting with gallery collection upgrades. "She was probably one of the most incredible life forces that we had here at the museum. Her energy, enthusiasm and tireless work in trying to help the community and help the museum was unparalleled."

David Starr, president of The Republican, recalled working with Friedmann on assorted civic and community boards over a span of 30 years. "Janee and I worked together on so many campaigns, raising money to refurbish the Springfield Museums, to build new libraries, to buy new high-definition equipment for WGBY, to help the Springfield Symphony stay alive and well. She did it all with such verve and grace and elegance. She was a stunning woman who was always ready to roll up her sleeves and pitch in and work for the good causes she believed in."

Janee was very active in the community, serving as the President of the Junior League of Greater Springfield, the Richard Salter Storrs Library of Longmeadow, the Early Childhood Center of Springfield, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Public Forum, the Longmeadow Gardeners, and Vice-President of the Maple Hill Cemetery Association of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. She also served as the Chairman of the Board of the Springfield Museums Association.

Mrs. Friedmann received numerous awards for her work, including the Mary Alice Rogers Award for Volunteerism from public television station WGBY-TV, Channel 57, in 2006, and the YWCA Women of Achievement Award in 1998. In 2001, Janee received the William Pynchon Award, Western Massachusetts' highest civic honor.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLIE POWELL

#### HON. JON C. PORTER—

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellie Powell who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field as a Registered Nurse.

Ellie has a long and distinguished career as a nursing professional. Her career in nursing

started in 1959 as an Operating Room Nurse at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital in Darby, Pennsylvania. In 1960, Ellie became an Operating Room Heart Scrub Nurse at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. Following a short time at Geiringer, Ellie became a United States Air Force Nurse, serving at both Cannon Air Force Base and Royal Air Force Weathersfield until 1963. In 1964, she moved to Sumter, South Carolina and began working as a Medical/Surgical Staff Nurse at Toomey Medical Center. Ellie again relocated to Liberal, Kansas in 1966, where she became a Medical/Surgical Charge Nurse at Southwest Medical Center and subsequently became a staff nurse then a nursing supervisor. In 1977, Ellie moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado where she began her tenure as a staff nurse and eventually became a nursing supervisor at Penrose Community Hospital. While at Penrose, Ellie taught the first Nursing Diagnosis Class in Colorado Springs. She also served as Chairperson of the Policy and Procedures Committee. Ellie moved to Valley Hospital Medical Center in 1989 to become a Medical Surgical Staff Nurse and is presently still serving in a number of different capacities at Valley Hospital. Over the course of her tenure at Valley Hospital, Ellie has served as Clinical Director of Ancillary Services, Clinical Director of Medical/Surgical Services, and Nursing Supervisor. Ellie has also served on a number of committees during her time with Valley Hospital Medical Center including the Performance Improvement Clinical Committee, the Performance Improvement Operational Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Patient Safety Council.

Over the course of her distinguished nursing career Ellie has received a number of accolades. In 1995, she was a Nurse of the Year Runner-up, in October 2004 she received the Service Excellence Silver Star from Valley Hospital Medical Center and the Service Employee of the Quarter Award. Ellie was also named the March of Dimes "Distinguished Nurse of Southern Nevada" in 2006. In addition to her numerous professional awards and honors, Ellie has been published twice and is very active in a number of professional associations.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Ellie Powell. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Ellie for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

#### RECOGNIZING CHARLOTTE KATHRYN WOODWARD

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Charlotte Kathryn Woodward. Charlotte was born on Thursday, January 11, 2007, to her proud parents, Travis and Sarah Woodward of Bowie, Maryland. Charlotte entered the world at 6:33 a.m. at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Maryland, weighing a healthy 8 lbs. 11½ oz. and 20.8 inches long.

Charlotte also has proud grandparents, Lewis and Kathy Rice, of Maryville, Missouri,

and Cheryl and Duane Farmer of Sidney, Nebraska, as well as Bruce Woodward of Maryville, Missouri, to spoil her. Charlotte is also the niece of Ryan and Kristin Woodward of Stafford, Virginia; Nathan Woodward of Maryville, Missouri; Robert and Sarah Rice of Chillicothe, Missouri; and Nathaniel Rice, of Maryville, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Charlotte Kathryn Woodward. I see great things in Charlotte's future considering her parents' and grandparents' great emphasis on family values, public service and patriotism. I wish Charlotte the best life has to offer.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DOUG A. DETTER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

#### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Doug A. Detter of Defiance, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Doug's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this summer with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. It is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Doug brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Defiance High School in Defiance, Ohio, Doug attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While an accomplished athlete, Doug has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Doug has been a member of the National Honor Society, the Quiz Team, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar.

Outside the classroom, Doug has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in golf and track. Doug's dedication and service to the community and his peers have proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Doug will employ the lessons of his student leadership as he excels among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Doug A. Detter on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Doug will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in

wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZES THE ACADEMY AT  
THE FARM SCHOOL FOR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy at the Farm School, a Pasco County, Florida charter school that is being recognized for academic achievement at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The Center for Education Reform has selected the School as an Exemplary Charter School for the past year. The Academy at the Farm School is one of six from Florida, 53 nationwide, and was chosen from over 4 thousand eligible charter schools.

Founded in 2002 as an inclusion school for exceptional student education students, the School is designed to place these gifted students in a regular classroom setting. In addition to its focus on academic success, the School also focuses on learning about the environment.

One of the most successful institutions in Florida, the School has a grade of A and has met 100 percent of the criteria required for adequate yearly progress. Additionally, it was one of only four schools in Pasco County to have achieved adequate yearly progress. With a student to faculty ratio of only six to one, there is a strong focus on individual teaching and learning. All the teachers at the School are certified, with 30 percent of them having advanced degrees and a total of over 225 years experience.

The Academy received a letter from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush recognizing the fourth graders as one of the top 100 elementary schools in the State for improvements in writing. They also received a letter from Governor Bush for being named one of the top 50 combination schools in the State that made the most year-to-year progress.

As is the case with many successful educational institutions, the Academy at the Farm School is headed up by strong leaders and administrators. Dr. Michael Rom, the School Administrator, is the former Provost at Pasco Hernando Community College and is highly respected in the education and professional world. He and the seven teachers attending the event in Washington were original staff members of the Academy and have continued their commitment to Pasco County children and families.

Madam Speaker, educational leaders like Dr. Rom and the teachers at the Academy at the Farm School should be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Their record of success has proven them worthy of being named an Exemplary Charter School by the Center for Education Reform. I congratulate them on the award and know that they will continue to focus on educational achievement into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
CHESTER ALEXANDER HUNT, SR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Fairhope and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Chester Alexander Hunt, Sr., was an institution at Fairhope's Grand Hotel, serving as a waiter, concierge, official greeter, and historian for more than 60 years.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Hunt spent most of his life in Fairhope with his wife of 65 years, Mary Lewis Hunt, who passed away in February of this year.

On April 18, 1941, Mr. Hunt began his career at the Grand Hotel. He left the hotel to serve in the Army during World War II and returned after the war ended. During his time at the Grand Hotel, Chester welcomed countless guests to the 160-year-old hotel, including former President George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Dolly Parton, and Bo Jackson.

It goes without saying that Mr. Hunt was well known throughout southwest Alabama. He conducted regular history tours for the guests and special tours for groups. In 1998, Chester was awarded the hotel chain's J.W. Marriott Award of Excellence.

In addition to his service at the Grand Hotel, Mr. Hunt owned an insurance company in Fairhope for more than 20 years and served on the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a truly wonderful man, a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Chester Alexander Hunt will be deeply missed by his family—his children, Jan Marie Coleman, Julius Hunt, Chester A. Hunt, Jr., Tyrone Hunt, and Kerry Hunt; his brother, Cecil Hunt; 8 grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 60-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16 ACRE  
LIONS CLUB

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the 16 Acre Lions Club as well as their 60 years of service to the great city of Springfield, Massachusetts. Below is a brief history of the Club as well as their many accomplishments.

The Springfield 16 Acres Lions Club began on April 25, 1947. The Club's charter night occurred on June 18, 1947. In the beginning, the meetings were held in various buildings, including Belle's, the Old School House, and the Foster Memorial Church. During the 1950s, the Club presented movies for the community in the School House for the price of a dime.

All children were welcomed and no child was ever refused for lack of a dime.

Another hallmark of the Club during the 1950s, was the establishment of the Lions Orthopedic Clinic, established by Russell Koch (a past President of the Club) in 1951. The patients of the Clinic were referred by local ophthalmologists and were charged a fee according to their ability to pay. Today the facility remains open and is currently located on Maple Street in downtown Springfield.

Fred Hoare, a past District Governor, formed the sports program. The program included events for soccer, basketball, softball, as well as baseball. The Club held a soccer tournament every year on Memorial Day weekend, with teams from as far away as Virginia participating.

For the past 37 years, the Club has provided food baskets for needy families during the Christmas season. This is coordinated through the local churches. Along with food, presents for children are also included. Money to support this effort has been raised through a raffle ticket sale during the month of November.

The Club has also provided glaucoma and diabetic testing for the community. Eyeglasses as well as eye exams for those in need were provided free of charge through authorized facilities. Other charitable events included an annual Easter egg hunt held the Saturday before Easter at Greenleaf Park. Six local elementary schools participate in the Easter egg hunt every year. The Club also organizes a pancake breakfast at St. Catherine's on Park Street. The proceeds are used for scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

The Club also raises money for funding of the 33Y Lions District Eye Mobile. The mobile will be a fully equipped Winnebago for the testing of diabetes, high blood pressure, and glaucoma. The mobile will be equipped with a special camera to take photos of the retina. The camera will also be equipped with a fax machine that will send the photos to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear in Boston for analysis. This project has taken over eight years to complete and I am happy to report that it will be available this summer for use in any Lions Club in Western Massachusetts.

Fifteen years ago the Club began its participation of a beautification project in the center of 16 Acres. This project was headed by Lion Richard Messier and is now run by Mr. Richard Pond. The Club formed a committee in order to have a Lions Park at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Park Street. Members of the Club contribute by cutting grass, cleaning up the leaves, and planting flowers every spring for the Veterans on Memorial Day. They also place Christmas decorations including a lighted train. The Club has so far spent \$3,500 dollars in order to keep the park beautiful.

Our Club has produced four District Governors. The late Robert Scott, Richard Leary, and Fred Hoare have served in this capacity. PDG John Ingalls is still active in the 16 Acres Club. These four men are held in high regard and are well respected for their accomplishments.

Lastly, it is important to note that the success of the many projects that this Club has undertaken is due to the dedication of its members. Lions truly demonstrate their motto, "We Serve."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RYAN  
PECKHAM

**HON. JON C. PORTER—**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Peckham, who has distinguished himself as an outstanding and devoted professional in his field as a Registered Nurse.

Ryan Peckham has been a Registered Nurse at Summerlin Hospital for three years. Since arriving at Summerlin Hospital as a New Grad RN, Ryan has excelled both as an outstanding nurse and patient advocate. In his three years, he has worked on several committees to help improve patient care and employee life in Southern Nevada including acting as the lead for a committee that overhauled the Triage process in the Emergency Department. Ryan's actions as a key member of this committee were instrumental to implementing new procedures that have helped save countless lives in the Southern Nevada community. He has also worked diligently to make Summerlin Hospital an employer of choice, not only by increasing the desire for Registered Nurses to work at Summerlin Hospital, but by also helping patients receive the highest quality care. Due to his demonstrated proficiency as a Registered Nurse, Ryan has recently been named a Charge Nurse.

Ryan is the epitome of professionalism and dedication. He has contributed to nursing as a whole in many different aspects. He maintains the belief that nursing is an attitude rather than a job.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ryan Peckham. His professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Ryan for his efforts and commitment to his patients and to our community.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL W. HAMPTON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Michael W. Hampton of Waterville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Michael's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this summer with the incoming midshipmen class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Michael brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While at-

tending Anthony Wayne High School in Whitehouse, Ohio, Michael attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Michael has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Michael has been a member for the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Michael has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Michael has earned varsity letters in track, swimming and cross country. He was named Captain of the Varsity Cross Country team and served as President of the German Club. Michael's dedication and service to the community and his peers have proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Michael will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael W. Hampton on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Michael will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN GRAYBILL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shawn Graybill, a very dedicated and enthusiastic member of my Congressional staff. My office and I greatly value Shawn's hard work and commitment. Constituents have grown to recognize his attention to detail, knowledge of many issues and personal touch. His dedication to the Sixth District of Missouri has shown through over the years, which is evident by the appreciation of all with whom he works.

A native of Tarkio, Shawn began his career within my office as an intern in June of 2002 while completing his undergraduate degree from Park University. He has served admirably whether it was working on constituent case-work or as a field representative for Clay County.

Shawn also worked on my re-election campaign as my campaign manager. As anyone in politics knows, these types of jobs involve long hours and time away from your family. I appreciate his wife, Laura, for sharing her husband with me over the last 5 years.

Shawn will be leaving my office to serve as an Assistant Director for the American Truck Historical Society. In addition, Shawn and Laura are about to become first-time parents. It is my understanding that their daughter will share the name of my favorite President, Ronald Reagan.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Shawn Graybill for his many important contributions to myself, my staff, all those he has worked with and for all those he has served. It is truly an honor to

represent Shawn in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION'S PRESENCE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and Subtropical Agricultural Research Station (STARS) in Brooksville, FL. for the past seventy-five years, STARS has worked in cooperation with the University of Florida to improve animal production. Their hard work to develop superior animal production systems for the subtropical regions of the United States has established them as leaders in beef cattle and water quality research.

STARS began in 1932 with nearly 2,100 acres as a gift to the Federal Government by Colonel and Mrs. Raymond Robins. The STARS program would eventually grow to its current size of 3,800 acres and produce significant research for the categorization and conservation of tropically adapted beef cattle. Their current projects include environmentally focused analysis that will help determine the impact of the cattle on the waters of Florida and their sustainability.

Given its status as the only station located in the South, the STARS program remains a unique and significant research facility. This is extremely significant because of the fact that nearly 40 percent of the entire Nation's cattle herd is located in the southern United States. STARS also serves as a satellite repository to the National Animal Germplasm Program for tropically adapted beef cattle.

Madam Speaker, I applaud all the men and women who have contributed to the success of the STARS program over the past seventy-five years. These individuals exemplify how working tirelessly on animal production and water quality research can greatly enhance the quality of life for America. This program continues to enhance scientific knowledge of beef cattle, and I commend those involved for their efforts to produce research at the forefront of American agriculture.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the House of Representatives to honor the National Small Business Association (NSBA) as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. This first-rate organization currently reaches more than 150,000 small-business

owners nationwide—a number that has well surpassed the original group of 160 members. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the commendable service NSBA has provided to this Nation's entrepreneurs over the past 70 years.

As Chair of the Small Business Committee, I am well aware of the unique plight facing this Nation's entrepreneurs. As the oldest small business advocacy group in the United States, NSBA has a strong history of promoting small business growth and educating its members on the impact of Federal policies. The unwavering dedication that this group has shown to fostering the advancement and growth of entrepreneurs is deserving of recognition.

From carpenters to grocers and designers, NSBA represents a broad range of citizens who believe in the free enterprise system. Since joining the Small Business Committee well over a decade ago, this organization has frequently been out front, leading the charge on a number of issues that are of the utmost importance to this Nation's 26 million small businesses. Whether it was advocating for increased access to capital or the Federal marketplace—NSBA has always acted as a steadfast advocate for our entrepreneurs.

Thanks to the leadership of the NSBA—its founder, the late DeWitt M. Emery, Board Members, Executive Director, staff, and supporters—its members are given the opportunity to gather every two years during the "Small Business Congress" to learn about the latest happenings impacting their businesses and vote upon their top ten. NSBA subsequently publishes its priority issues booklet listing the results and advocating on the members' behalf. NSBA's contributions that bring to light the everyday matters that are of concern to the main drivers of this economy—small business—are truly commendable.

Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations to the National Small Business Association in commemoration of its 70th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER  
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LISA PHILIPS

**HON. JON C. PORTER-**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Philips, R.N., who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field as a Registered Nurse.

Lisa Philips has been a Registered Nurse for over 28 years. In 2003, Lisa joined the staff at Summerlin Hospital as a Charge Nurse where she was responsible for incoming patients' ability to see a physician in a timely manner. In 2006, Lisa was promoted to House Supervisor where her responsibilities include maintaining the patient flow of the entire hospital and ensuring that patients receive their needed care. Lisa is a committed and caring nurse who has a unique ability to communicate with physicians, patients, and their families. Lisa also personifies team values and is the embodiment of the Very Important Patient Program recently established at Summerlin Hospital. As a result of her commitment to excellence and outstanding service to her patients and colleagues, Lisa was recognized as Employee of the Year for 2006.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Lisa Philips, R.N. and her continued excellence at Summerlin Hospital. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Lisa for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2007

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day 2007, and to celebrate the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to the growth and prosperity of Northeast Ohio.

Held May 15 and May 19, Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the well-being of Northeast Ohio. I marvel at the beautiful ethnic and cultural diversity that has developed over the years, and I am grateful for the generations of immigrants who have brought to Cleveland the customs and rich heritage from every corner of Asia.

As Clevelanders forge ahead, building new institutions, relationships and bridges, it is my hope that future generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will continue their invaluable contributions to our social, economic and cultural health.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day, and honoring the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAT AND BILL KESSLER, RECIPIENTS OF THE 2007 "CIRCLE OF CARE" AWARD

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pat and Bill Kessler, a couple who have worked together to improve the quality of life in their community. The Kesslers will be honored on May 31, 2007 as the recipients of the 2007 Circle of Care award from the Riverbend Head Start and Family Services in Alton, Illinois.

Bill Kessler retired last year after 33 years at St. Anthony's Heath Center in Alton, Illinois where he had served as the first lay administrator and longtime CEO of this institution founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. Pat was a registered nurse but has spent the past 35+ years that they have been in the Alton community raising their family of eight children and donating time to many organizations. They have both been willing, despite the significant demands of their work and family lives, to give back to their community and make meaningful contributions to the quality of life for those in the Alton area.

The Kesslers met while Pat was a student nurse and Bill was a college student working as an orderly in St. Louis. They were married in 1968 and spent their first years together overseas, with Bill serving in the U.S. Army after receiving his Masters Degree from St. Louis University. They came back to the St.

Louis area and settled in Alton, Illinois with a new and growing family.

Bill Kessler helped shape St. Anthony's Health Center into a facility that earned a "Top 100 Hospital" award and has branched out with a number of community outreach programs and initiatives. Bill has also found time to be involved in over 50 different professional and civic organizations through the years.

Pat Kessler, in addition to raising their eight children, with all the school and sports activities, homework, doctors visits, etc. that is required for such a large family, has also been very involved in a number of religious, educational and civic organizations.

Both Pat and Bill continue to look for ways to serve others. They have both recently completed a master's in Theological Studies Program at Quincy University and look to enhance their role within their church. Their continuing work to help others within their community is being recognized through the 2007 Circle of Care award. The Riverbend Head Start and Family Services has a mission, to "enable children and families to discover positive solutions to life's challenges." Pat and Bill Kessler are living examples of this mission and are therefore very worthy recipients of this award.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Pat and Bill Kessler for their dedicated service to their community and to wish them and their family the very best in the future.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIM HOLDEN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across our country.

May 6, 2007 kicked off the National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Throughout the week, correctional officers will be here in Washington to speak with their elected officials, present awards to officers whose exceptional service merits special recognition, and honor the memory of fallen comrades who had made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

I am proud to sponsor House Resolution 264, along with my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS. H. Res. 264 is a bipartisan resolution designed to honor correctional officers and employees by acknowledging and supporting the goals and ideals of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. The resolution directly honors correctional workers at all levels, local, State and Federal, including psychologists, chaplains, teachers, and kitchen staff.

Correctional facilities are a critical component of our public safety and criminal justice systems. We rely on correctional facilities to

mend the behavior of certain members of our society. To do that, these facilities must rely on correctional officers and other personnel who are highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment. Before coming to Congress I had the honor of working alongside these men and women when I served as a probation officer and then Sheriff of Schuylkill County, which houses a Federal and state prison. The respect I gained for these public servants is indescribable and I thank them for the countless ways they benefit our communities.

Correctional officers and staff work each day to protect society from the threat of criminal activity. They risk their lives ensuring that we are safe. They maintain order in a dangerous place and ensure the basic needs of one of the most difficult groups in society are addressed. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we get the opportunity to thank them for the good work they do and I commend my colleagues in the House or Representatives for passing House Resolution 264.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication

and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

#### HONORING EAGLE SCOUT AWARDEES

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four constituents in my district who achieved the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. As members of the Pendleton County Boy Scouts and the brotherhood, Order of the Arrow, they demonstrate the high standards of Scouting and citizenship. I would like to take a moment to highlight their individual accomplishments:

Mathew Tyler Putz of Franklin, West Virginia achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on February 19, 2006. In addition to Scouting activities; Mathew plays football and track for Pendleton County High School and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Future Farmers of America.

Jeremy Allen Hottinger was officially recognized as an Eagle Scout on August 2, 2006. He plays football for the Pendleton County Wildcats and is a member of the Upper Tract Volunteer Fire Department.

Julian Achetta Siapno became an Eagle Scout on August 22, 2006. He is currently serving our country in the United States Air Force.

For their final project, Matthew, Jeremy, and Julian worked together to improve a picnic shelter at a local Navy Base in Sugar Grove. Matthew built a wooden bridge across a ravine; while Jeremy made a gravel path at both ends of the bridge. Julian painted and improved the picnic area. They are members of Scout Troop 162 in Franklin, West Virginia.

Travis Allen Day, a member of Troop 499 in Circleville, joined the prestigious league of Eagle Scouts on December 28, 2006. He cleaned and remodeled the United States Forest Service public rifle range at Brandywine, West Virginia. Travis also plays baseball for the Petersburg High School Vikings baseball team.

I would like to congratulate these four young West Virginians for their adherence to the Boy Scouts of America. I want to extend to them my most sincere gratitude for preserving and improving their communities. I look forward to the future accomplishments of these promising young citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARROLL  
JOHNSON

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carroll Johnston, who is being honored with the naming of a middle school in his honor by the Clark County School District.

Mr. Johnston has dedicated 37 years to the Clark County School District. After his first year of teaching, Mr. Johnston served in the U.S. Army for 2 years. Following his service to our country, he continued teaching at Western High School where he also coached and advised numerous student sports and activities. Mr. Johnston also served as a school counselor and dean of students. He then worked at various middle schools as Vice-Principal and two district high schools as Principle. Mr. Johnston then had the privilege of opening Green Valley High School, where he worked as principal until retirement.

Mr. Johnston currently serves on the Gaming Policy Committee for the State of Nevada and has been very active in several Boys and Girls Club functions over the years.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Carroll Johnston and his distinguished career in service to Clark County School district and the State of Nevada. I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam Speaker, I was not present to vote on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, because I was in my upstate New York district, attending the funeral of State Trooper David Brinkerhoff, a State trooper killed in the line of duty.

Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

(1) Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Head Start Rule—"yea."

(2) H. Res. 348—Rule providing for consideration of the Head Start bill—"yea."

(3) H. Res. 350—Rule providing for consideration of the NIST bill—"yea."

(4) Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the Iraq Supplemental, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?—"yea."

(5) Price (GA) Amendment. Establishes an 8-state Block Grant demonstration of Head Start program which would eliminate Head Start program standards, weaken oversight and accountability, remove local control, and end Head Start as we know it—"nay."

(6) Sestak/Tierney/Courtney Amendment. Authorizes a loan forgiveness program for Head Start teachers to support better teacher quality in Head Start programs—"yea."

(7) Hirono Amendment. Improves the Early Head Start program by making needed im-

provements to the training and technical assistance system in Early Head Start—"yea."

(8) Mica Amendment. Moves the deadline up by 2 years for when Head Start teachers must have B.A.'s, without providing additional resources to ensure programs would not have to reduce other core services—"nay."

(9) Putnam Amendment. Removes the bill's improved accountability measures that include a system of program quality review by requiring all Head Start programs to be re-competed every 5 years regardless of their quality; draws funding away from the classroom for greater federal bureaucracy—"nay."

(10) Carnahan Amendment. Ensures programs can maintain quality services by allowing grantees to negotiate enrollment levels when appropriations are insufficient to cover COLA—"yea."

(11) Shuler/Ellsworth/Loeb sack Amendment. Affirms eligibility of faith-based organizations as Head Start grantees and applauds role of community and faith based organizations in the Head Start program—"yea."

TRIBUTE TO DR. GRETCHEN  
SCHUETTE

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Dr. Gretchen Schuette for her distinguished service as the eighth president of Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. The name Chemeketa is a Kalapuya word meaning "place of peace." Willamette Valley Native Americans would gather at a place they called Chemeketa, today known as Salem. There, they conducted their councils, renewed friendships, and shared old ideas and cultivated new ones.

Dr. Schuette embodies the spirit of Chemeketa and throughout her tenure has brought the institution to new levels of academic achievement and excellence in technical training, workforce development, and business support.

Dr. Schuette has overseen an enterprise that is one of the largest—public or private—in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. Last year more than 57,000 students attended classes at the college that has campuses and centers in Salem, Woodburn, McMinnville, Dallas and the Santiam Canyon. After serving the college as one of its deans until 1992, Gretchen returned as president in July 2001, and she steered Chemeketa through difficult financial times as state resources fell and student populations continued their increase of 31 percent in the last 10 years.

Dr. Schuette has been an education leader at all levels in Oregon, having served as superintendent of the Gresham-Barlow School District and dean of distance education for Oregon State University in addition to her work for three Oregon community colleges.

She has earned degrees in English literature, botany and geological oceanography from Smith College, Central Michigan University and Oregon State University. She remains a dedicated Beaver fan.

In addition to receiving awards from the Oregon Diversity Institute and the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, Dr. Schuette has served on the Marion County Families and Children Commission, the Public Commission of the Oregon Legislature, and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

I hope Members will join me in extending my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Schuette for her leadership of Chemeketa Community College and offer our well wishes as she retires to pursue her next great adventures.

HONORING FRANCIS MIKO FOR HIS  
SERVICE TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize and commend Francis Miko for more than three decades of service to the U.S. Congress at the Congressional Research Service. On April 27, 2007, Francis retired as a Specialist in International Relations with the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of CRS, bringing to an end a distinguished career as an expert on both foreign policy issues and our institution.

I have had the pleasure of working with Francis on a number of occasions, particularly in association with two different endeavors that I value among my greatest privileges as a Member of Congress. The first was the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which was established by the U.S. House of Representatives following the collapse of the Soviet Union in order to assist the legislatures in former Soviet-bloc countries. These institutions, which had previously been rubber stamps for a totalitarian regime, were suddenly thrust upon the democratic stage with the responsibility of representing the will of the people. Francis Miko led CRS' efforts on the Task Force, and proved to be a key asset and invaluable expert. In twelve post-Communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, he coordinated the establishment of parliamentary libraries and research facilities, lent a tremendous amount of technical expertise in legislative functioning and helped to implement the use of information technology.

Nearly 10 years after the Frost-Solomon Task Force concluded its work, its mission was reborn with a global focus in the House Democracy Assistance Commission. Once again, this body has relied enormously on the experience and institutional knowledge that Francis has provided. Since its establishment in 2004, HDAC has embarked upon partnerships with 12 developing and re-emerging democracies around the globe. Francis Miko's work in developing these programs and providing the technical assistance necessary to strengthen these vital institutions has been indispensable.

We will miss his expertise, his dedication, his professionalism and his depth of institutional knowledge. I commend him for his commitment to public service and to the U.S. Congress, and I congratulate him on his well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO KEVIN D. LYONS

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kevin D. Lyons the Illustrious Potentate of the Oman Temple Number 72 Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine Prince Hall Affiliated. The Temple membership is honoring him at the Potentate's Ball on May 19th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

A native of New Jersey, Kevin attended East Orange High School with an emphasis in College Preparatory Music. He graduated from Delaware State University with a major in Music Education and obtained his masters degree at Howard University in Performance and Jazz Studies.

Bringing his love of music to Michigan, Kevin works for the Beecher Community School District as the district-wide assistant director of bands. He also provides private lessons in drum and percussion instruments and is a professional drummer with the music group "Deep Blue." He is a life member of the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America. He belongs to the Music Educators National Conference, National Association of Rudimental Drummers, the Percussive Art Society International Conference, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and all Prince Hall Masonic Houses.

In addition to being a committed music teacher, Kevin also uses his talent for the worship of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a member of Vermont Christian Church and is the Chairman of the Media Ministry. He is the former president of the Christian Men's Fellowship, a former co-sponsor of the Youth Ushers, and a participant on the Finance Team.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Kevin D. Lyons's devotion to his community, his students, his church, and to congratulate him for his service to the Oman Temple Number 72.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I was in my Congressional District and unable to be present for votes on May 7, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of rollcalls Nos. 302, 303, and 304.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY COUNOYER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Beverly Cournoyer, a Registered Nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Beverly earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Kansas and her Master's in Business Administration from University of Nevada Las Vegas. She has been a Registered Nurse for over 30 years. Beverly's career in public health care began with work on a Native American Indian Reservation, where she used her expertise to address the specific health care requirements of the population she served. When Beverly moved to Las Vegas, she committed herself to changing the way in which the Las Vegas community is served in regards to understanding the importance of public health care and home health care. Beverly developed and established a program to evaluate the long-term health care needs of extremely ill elderly patients in order to minimize their need for admissions to hospitals or to nursing homes. Her home health care program proved to be not only cost effective, but also dramatically improved the patients' quality of life.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Beverly Cournoyer. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless of patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives last week due to the birth of my son. If I had been able to be present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 1868—Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act: rollcall No. 301—"yea"; rollcall No. 300—"yea."

H.R. 1592—To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes: rollcall No. 299—"nay"; rollcall No. 298—"yea"; rollcall No. 297—"nay"; rollcall No. 296—"nay."

H.R. 1867—To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes: rollcall No. 295—"yea"; rollcall No. 294—"yea"; rollcall No. 293—"nay"; rollcall No. 292—"yea"; rollcall No. 291—"yea"; rollcall No. 290—"yea"; rollcall No. 289—"yea"; rollcall No. 288—"nay"; rollcall No. 287—"yea."

H.R. 1429—To reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes: rollcall No. 285—"yea";

Improving Head Start Act—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions:

Rollcall No. 284—"yea."

Amendment No. 11: rollcall No. 283—"nay."

Amendment No. 9: rollcall No. 282—"nay."

Amendment No. 7: rollcall No. 281—"yea."

Amendment No. 5: rollcall No. 280—"yea."

Amendment No. 4: rollcall No. 279—"yea."

Amendment No. 3: rollcall No. 278—"yea."

Amendment No. 2: rollcall No. 277—"yea."

H.R. 1591 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations: rollcall No. 276—"nay"; rollcall No. 275—"nay."

## TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1868) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Chairman, as we find ourselves falling farther and farther behind countries like China and India, which are graduating thousands more engineers and mathematicians than we are, America needs continued technological innovation to remain atop the global economy.

Yet industrial research and development that leads to breakthrough innovation is often expensive, and positive results are often a long time coming.

This can be especially problematic for small businesses. But America cannot afford not to help small business get the technology and training they need to compete in the world market.

I sponsored and supported H.R. 1868 in committee, largely because it includes two programs to help small businesses: the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Technology Innovation Program.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership helps America's small manufacturers improve productivity and competitiveness through technology. The Technology Innovation Program too assists small business to pursue new technology development.

By supporting these programs we are supporting industry and ensuring that our economy continues to lead the world in technological innovation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1868.

## HONORING MARK HOWE

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mark Howe for receiving the 2007 Distinguished Friend Award from the Grapevine-Colleyville Education Foundation. This nonprofit foundation was created to help support the educational programs and activities for students and staff of the GCISD. Programs to assist students in skill and achievement development, acknowledge staff accomplishments and develop broader involvement within the community are all funded by the Grapevine-Colleyville Education Foundation.

Mr. Howe has served on numerous GCISD advisory committees and for more than 6 years he has been the director for the Education Foundation serving as the Foundation's President for 2½ years. Mr. and Mrs. Howe donated a \$25,000 endowment to the foundation in honor of Mr. Howe's mother, Inez Cannon Howe, a retired teacher. The Howe's children have all graduated from the

Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mark Howe on being recognized with the 2007 Distinguished Friend Award and thank him for his service, support and guidance to the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and Education Foundation. His numerous contributions to the GCISD have no doubt benefited many and it is an honor to represent him in the 24th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN JIM  
SPEHAR OF GRAND JUNCTION,  
COLORADO

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Jim Spehar, an outstanding community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado. For eight years he has served the City of Grand Junction as a distinguished and valued member of the City Council. Prior to that, Mr. Spehar served as a Mesa County Commissioner from 1991 to 1995.

Leadership and candor have been a hallmark of his legacy and he has employed both of these qualities in his city and county roles, as well as having served as president of the Colorado Municipal League. In addition, he excelled as the western Colorado representative for the Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors. He currently serves as the director of the Central Rockies office of the Sonoran Institute, where he assists cities in assessing the impact of growth on their communities.

Jim Spehar has always been about the betterment of communities and his decisions have always reflected that thought. Popularity was not his concern—reaching for the good of the populace has been at the heart of his actions. Never one to back down from controversy, Jim has led by example through thoughtful decision making with integrity and fairness. His leadership will be difficult to emulate, and the bar he has set will take extraordinary efforts by those who follow him.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge his contributions to the city of Grand Junction and Mesa County, as well as the entirety of the State of Colorado.

HONORING BOB HUDEK

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable activist from Wisconsin—Bob Hudek of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

Bob Hudek is retiring from Citizen Action of Wisconsin after serving 12 years at the helm of an organization that has become a national model for how to engage people in progressive politics. During that time he displayed the strong leadership skills necessary to build Citizen Action of Wisconsin into an effective, statewide organization. It is known throughout the State for its fabulous issue work and

serves as one of the best organizing models in Milwaukee.

Bob Hudek's passion for fairness and compassionate public policy spans a broad range of serious issues facing the people of Wisconsin. From education to health care to consumer protection, Bob's commitment to the community and promoting the principles of social justice is truly unbounded.

Bob Hudek served to continue Wisconsin's long history of progressive politics. He worked undauntedly to elect progressive legislators who shared his commitment to the Wisconsin ideal. His leadership furthered the progressive movement at the State and national levels and will have an impact that will reverberate for years to come.

With an unmatched generosity of spirit, Bob Hudek is able to bring together people and organizations with an array of viewpoints and help them to find common ground. This dedication to the issues he holds dear fostered the development of not only Citizen Action of Wisconsin but other organizations as well.

Thank you, Bob, for the years of service you have provided Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the progressive movement, and the people of Wisconsin.

DART CELEBRATES 50,000

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50,000th passenger to use the Commuter Express. This is a remarkable milestone for the city of Denton.

On Monday, May 7, 2007, the Denton County Transportation Authority transported its 50,000th Commuter Express passenger. The Commuter Express was launched in May of 2006 and works in conjunction with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to connect Denton, Lewisville, the DART North Carrollton Transit Center and the Dallas Central Business District.

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) was signed into law by the governor in 2001. On June 6, 2003, the North Central Texas Council of Governments presented the Regional Cooperation Award to the DCTA. The award is presented to local governments which promote cooperation to solve regional problems; which do not allow jurisdictional boundaries to be barriers to solutions; and which demonstrate that joint projects can provide better use of resources as well as quality service.

I would like to congratulate the Denton County Transportation Authority and the entire community of Denton County. I am proud to celebrate this occasion with them, and I look forward to working with them in the future as we make our transportation system even more efficient. The people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas are already benefiting from this service, and I know I can expect great things in the future from DART.

ON THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the historic holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla, just 100 miles from Mexico City. General Seguín led his brave troops to a spirited victory in spite of the fact that his forces had neither the manpower nor the equipment of their opponents. The Battle of Puebla was instrumental in preserving the right of the Mexican people to self-determination, as it helped prevent the French military from taking long-term control of sovereign Mexican territory.

The heroic actions of General Seguín and his courageous forces not only helped preserve the Mexican government, they also helped preserve the unity of the United States. Had France been able to extend its control over Mexican territory at the Battle of Puebla, France likely would have had sufficient resources and manpower to aid the Confederate States of America in their war against the United States. The tremendous fight put up by the Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla ensured that such a worrisome scenario did not come to pass and provided President Lincoln with crucial support as the Civil War descended into chaos.

There can certainly be no questioning of the bravery, spirit and patriotism of the thousands of Mexican troops who fought and, all too frequently, gave their lives at the Battle of Puebla. I believe that, as we recognize the efforts and sacrifices of those troops, Cinco de Mayo provides us with a perfect opportunity to recognize the sacrifice for sovereignty, the importance of courage and, above all, the universal yearning for freedom.

The Mexican forces who won the Battle of Puebla should not and will not ever be forgotten. I commend those forces for their spirit and courage and I wish all those celebrating the holiday across Mexico and the United States a happy Cinco de Mayo.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's teachers and commemorate them for the infinite number of ways they make us a better nation by inspiring our children to think beyond the bounds of home, school and community.

Today is National Teacher Day and this is Teacher Appreciation Week. National Teacher Day, sponsored by the National Education Association, is a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives and to our communities.

While this year's theme for National Teacher Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools," all of us must also remember that great teachers make a better tomorrow for all

of us. Teacher Appreciation Week is sponsored by the National PTA and is a time to strengthen support and respect for teachers.

One of the top priorities of the fiscally responsible budget recently passed by the House of Representatives was to put our children and families first by increasing investments in education and expanding access to a high-quality education for all of America's children.

Unfortunately, the President's fiscal year 2008 budget cut education funding by \$1.5 billion below this year's level—at a time of record school enrollments and the challenging academic requirements of No Child Left Behind.

In sharp contrast, the budget passed by the House reverses the administration's policy of under-investing in education for our children. It rejects the President's proposal to cut funding for the Department of Education by \$1.5 billion below the 2007 enacted level and eliminate 44 different programs, instead providing for new investments in vital programs such as Head Start, special education (IDEA), Title I and other programs under the No Child Left Behind Act.

Overall, the House budget provides for investments of nearly \$8 billion more for 2008 and 11 percent more over the next 5 years for education and training than the President deemed necessary.

To see the future, we must stand on the shoulders of giants, and giants in our local communities are our school teachers who—despite the many challenges they face in classrooms each day—get up every day to teach and inspire our children.

On this day, let us remember why the House—in our recent budget—invested in our schools to ensure that our teachers have the tools and resources they need. Only when teachers have all they need to teach, can they give our children the high-quality education necessary to succeed in this increasingly competitive global economy.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DIABETES TREATMENT AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Diabetes Treatment and Prevention Act of 2007 with my good friend, VITO FOSSELLA.

There is no question that diabetes is a mounting challenge for our nation's health care system. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of Americans with diagnosed diabetes has doubled over the past 15 years. Over 20 million Americans are currently living with this disease, but 6 million of them have not yet been diagnosed. Another 54 million are classified as "pre-diabetic," with a high-risk of developing this condition. The statistics are simply staggering.

Beyond being a public health threat, Diabetes accounts for over \$92 billion in direct medical costs every year, and these numbers are only likely to increase. The Diabetes Treatment and Prevention Act would increase our

ability to prevent new cases of diabetes and improve disease management.

Our bill would codify the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Diabetes Translation and set up demonstration grants to allow for further research on how to translate effective diet and exercise interventions for us in the general populations. It would also increase the ability of state and local health departments to engage in surveillance and education activities, and set up demonstration projects to examine the best ways to treat diabetes when it occurs in conjunction with other chronic health conditions.

I am proud that we have taken a multi-pronged approach in this legislation to attack our mounting diabetes epidemic on two fronts; it will promote research at the Centers for Disease Control so that we may better understand this disease while also funding innovative treatment and education efforts at the state and local level.

This legislation, combined with the Engel/Fossella Gestational Diabetes (GED) Act (H.R. 1544), which combats growing rates of Diabetes in pregnant women across the nation will go a long way towards managing and preventing the onset of Diabetes.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation today.

#### TRIBUTE TO PARTICIPANTS IN 2007 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS MARCH 8, 2007

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, from April 28–30, 2007, more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C., to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from St. Thomas Aquinas High School of Overland Park, Kansas won the Unit Three: Constitution Shapes Institutions Award at this prestigious national event. Six unit awards were presented to the schools achieving the highest scores, based on the first two days of competition in each of the six units of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution text. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capital and compete at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which they "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. It is important to note that independent studies of the We the People program indicate that alumni of this nationally acclaimed program

display a greater political tolerance and commitment to the principles and values of the Constitution and Bill of Rights than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. With various reports and surveys that reveal the lack of civic knowledge and engagement, I am pleased to support such an outstanding program that continues to produce an enlightened and responsible citizenry.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School are:

Elizabeth Berra, Andrew Billam, Hannah Cisper, John Clark, Greg Correia, Lindsey Drilling, John Drouhard, Shanna Gast, Whitney Gremillion, Kyle Hauesser, Brigid Halling, Michael Hare, Thomas Hartung, Jordan Herbert, Kaitlyn Hirt, Kelly Jefferson, Ryan Johnson, Andrea Lickteig, Joseph McGroder, Mason Miller, Helen Mubarak, Andrew Peck, Derek Peterson, Erin Peterson, Andrew Robinson, Christopher Sevedge, Dylan Slaven, and Melissa Smith.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Spencer Clark, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the national finals. Also worthy of special recognition is Lynn Stanley, the State coordinator, and Ken Thomas, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing the We the People program in my State.

I congratulate these students on their exceptional achievement at the We the People national finals.

#### CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LA LUZ

#### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor La Luz, a weekly bilingual newspaper that serves the English- and Spanish-speaking communities of Lake County, Illinois. This Wednesday, May 9, La Luz will celebrate its fifth anniversary.

The newspaper and its editor, Mr. Ryan Pagelow, provide an invaluable public service to the Latino community of northern Illinois. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Pagelow and La Luz since the newspaper's inception on a variety of issues, and I know firsthand the professionalism that the staff displays on a daily basis.

One issue in particular that deserves special recognition is La Luz's coverage of my office's Abuelitas program. Through this initiative, we work with local community members and our embassy in Mexico to bring grandparents of 10th Congressional District residents to the United States. Many of these families have not seen each other for more than 20 years. The Mexican visitors spend 1 month with their loved ones, reconnecting and catching up on years of missed memories.

I credit La Luz with spreading the word about this heart-warming program. By publicizing the issue, we have expanded the Abuelitas program to multiple visits each year. In groups of 20 to 30 people at a time, we are bringing families together.

It is focusing on this and many other issues of importance to Lake County that makes La Luz an indispensable part of the 10th Congressional District. I ask that my colleagues

join me in celebrating their fifth anniversary, in hopes of many more years of continued success.

**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL  
HEALTH AWARENESS DAY**

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, approximately one in five of the children and adolescents in this country will experience the signs and symptoms of a mental health problem this year.

Today, local children's mental health initiatives across the nation will celebrate the strides they have made with children who are experiencing serious emotional and behavioral problems. I congratulate the Harris County Systems of Hope in Houston, Texas, which has been successful in using a family-driven approach to help emotionally disturbed youth become productive, responsible citizens and thrive in their communities, rather than getting caught in the juvenile justice system.

I urge my colleagues to join in celebrating National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and supporting their local children's mental health initiatives.

**CONGRATULATING ROBERT  
WAPLES**

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, dedicated and well-prepared first responders are one of the greatest assets to a community during an emergency. Today, I am honored to recognize Mr. Robert Waples of Rural/Metro Ambulance in Aurora, Colorado. Mr. Waples has been named as a Star of Life Award recipient by the American Ambulance Association for his exceptional service and commitment to the Colorado community.

Mr. Waples has been a member of EMS for the past 30 years, over which time he has sought to improve the standard of medical transportation for the Aurora region. His hard work and efforts are shining examples of leadership and vision, helping the ambulance community better respond to the public.

The Star of Life Award is given to outstanding individuals nationwide within the ambulance service field who have shown above-and-beyond dedication to their profession and society. Recipients are medics, dispatchers, and EMS personnel who have promoted the success of pre-hospital care and the effectiveness of medical transportation. This May, the American Ambulance Association will honor these men and women in Washington D.C., recognizing their heroic, life-saving achievements and contributions to their local communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Waples for this honor. May he

continue to be an inspiration to his organization as well as to the medical transportation community as a whole.

**OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2007**

Daniel Lerma, Robert F. Kennedy Charter High School; Jennifer Roberts, Mountainair High School; Jennifer Johnston, Del Norte High School; James H. Caughren, Sandia Preparatory School; Arthur Chacon, Manzano High School; Siobhan Degnan, Southwest Secondary Learning Center; Abigail Martinez, South Valley Academy; Molly Nelson, Albuquerque Academy; Ashley Marie Maturino, Evangel Christian Academy; Ruby Trujillo, Rio Grande High School; Nicholas A. Maestas, Highland High School; David Aaron Parks, Cibola High School; Kelsey Byrne, Moriarty High School; Mathew Garcia, West Mesa High School; Eric Laver, Sandia High School; and Austin Baker, Temple Baptist Academy.

Angelica Aguilar, Los Puentes Charter School; Amanda Fernandez May, St. Pius X High School; Ashley Hope Darnell, Bernalillo High School; Sara Beth Dunham, Victory Christian School; Geri Lucia Lia, Menaul School; Corina Franco, New Futures School; Kelly Walker, Bosque School; Kelly D. Clingenpeel, Sierra Alternative High School; Audrey Wofford, Hope Christian School; Desiree J. Sandoval, Cesar Chavez Community School; Katie Gilliam, La Cueva High School; James C. Bohnhoff, El Dorado High School; Elizabeth McConaghy, Los Lunas High School; Charles Andres Padilla, East Mountain High School; and Stacy Daniels, Valley High School.

**TRIBUTE TO VAL MCCOMIE,  
FORMER AMBASSADOR OF BARBADOS  
AND FORMER ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN  
STATES**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Val McComie, of Barbados, a consummate professional and diplomat who established a high bar for his

nation in the achievements of his illustrious career. I place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute by Ambassador Michael King to Val McComie.

Today, I had the honor and privilege to speak at the funeral service for Ambassador Val McComie. My heart was warmed to see the outpouring of love by his family members and friends who attended the service to pay their final respects to a great man. It was obvious that he touched the lives of many with his wisdom, knowledge, and commitment to public service. He will be missed by many, but he leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew him.

I was very encouraged by the tribute to Ambassador Val McComie by Ambassador Michael King, which was read at the funeral service today. I will reflect on the tribute when I think of my friend and his contribution to my life, democracy, and the people of the Caribbean.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONOURABLE VALERIE T.  
MCCOMIE, C.H.B.**

The Honourable Valerie Theodore McComie, C.H.B. was a quintessential Caribbean man. His whole life was spent teaching his students, his colleagues and interlocutors—and anybody with a keen ear—about the dynamics of Caribbean politics and society.

His strong love and appreciation for the Inter-American System played a major role in convincing the Government of Barbados to join the Organisation of American States in 1967 and to service the Permanent Mission with quality staff with the necessary professional and linguistic skills to interact effectively with their colleagues from the rest of the Hemisphere.

Val mentored anyone who was willing to listen to his wise advice and to benefit from his institutional memory. His knowledge of Latin America and the key decision-makers was incredible and one could only marvel at his ability to keep abreast of the rapid changes of government during a period when the word "democracy" was not often part of the lexicon of the Region.

He was a stickler for detail and thorough preparation and he always felt that all diplomats should not take the floor to speak unless they had full access to facts and knowledge about the subject. He demanded and expected a certain level of excellence in the area of diplomatic representation.

As Assistant Secretary General from 1980–1990 Val was a major source of advice to several CARICOM leaders on matters related to the Inter-American System. He relished the role like a kid in a candy store. Sometimes his frankness was not appreciated but he never wavered from his strong views.

I had the privilege to be in La Paz in October 1979 when he created history by winning a very close election to the post of Assistant Secretary General. It was not an easy task for him and the delegation of Barbados but there was no doubt that the esteem with which he was held in the Hemisphere was the primary reason for his success. His re-election by acclamation in Brazilia in 1984 bought similar joy to us.

Val loved sports, especially cricket and football. He always reminded me that he was close to selection for the Barbados Cricket Team. I can also recall the joy he felt when he returned from the 1982 Football World Cup in Spain and the attention he paid to subsequent events.

He followed in death by 100 days, his good friend, the Honourable Oliver Jackman, C.H.B., who also had the great honour of serving as Ambassador of Barbados to the

United States of America and the Organization of American States. They were among the first persons selected to represent Barbados immediately following the granting of Independence in November 1966. All of you will agree that Barbados, the Caribbean and the Inter-American System are better off from their leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life and the promotion of justice for all citizens of the Hemisphere.

On behalf of the Government and people of Barbados I wish to express our sincerest expression of sympathy to his wife, Elia and daughter, Gail and the rest of the family.

I wish to end by reading the first verse of the poem "Los Heraldos Negros" (Black Messengers) by the great Peruvian, Cesar Vallejo:

"Hay golpes en la vida, tan fuertes . . . Yo no sé!

Golpes como del odio de Dios; como si ante ellos, la resaca de todo lo sufrido se empozara en el alma . . . Yo no sé!

In English:

There are in life such hard blows . . . I don't know!

Blows seemingly from God's wrath; as if before them

The undertow of all our sufferings is embedded in our souls . . .

I don't know!

May he rest in peace!

#### TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING STIMULATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, which will reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1868 is the first reauthorization of NIST since 1991. Authorizing \$2.5 billion over 3 years, this bill would increase funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, which keeps jobs in the United States; creates the Technology Innovation Program, which allows universities partnering with businesses to apply for funding through NIST and speed research in high-risk, high-reward technologies in areas of critical national needs; continue funding NIST on a 10-year path to doubling; and provide necessary construction funding for laboratory upgrades.

Founded in 1901 under the National Bureau of Standards Act, NIST has been in the forefront of innovative technology in areas of public safety, industrial competitiveness and economic growth through standards and measurements. Its mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

NIST works tirelessly with industry, universities, and other government agencies to address technological innovations that will fundamentally change products and services available in the 21st century. NIST is renowned for working on cutting edge technology. Innovations from this research will ultimately impact our quality of life.

Also supported in this reauthorization would be the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, founded by NIST and given by the President of the United States. The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recognizes businesses for their standard of performance excellence in their business practices. Minnesota has been the recipient of three Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in the past 10 years. Most recently in 2005, Sunny Fresh Foods, Incorporated won its second Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for its quality and leadership that continually focuses people and business processes on improving product and services to its customers and stakeholders.

NIST sits at the nexus of science and industry. NIST's unique role is to advance measurements and standards so that the next innovation can be realized and commercialized. In today's global economy, the ability of the United States to remain competitive relies increasingly on our ability to develop and commercialize innovative technologies. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1868 in order for National Institute of Standards and Technology to remain as the premier institute for measurements and standards in the world.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AS THE "2007 BEST PLACE TO WORK IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT" AND AS THE "BEST DIVERSITY COMPANY"

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent achievements of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC recently captured the top ranking among large Federal agencies in the "2007 Best Places To Work in the Federal Government" rankings announced Thursday, April 19, 2007 by the Partnership for Public Service and the American University Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation.

This recognition is a great honor for all of the men and women at the NRC. Agency employees are clearly committed to the mission of licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment. As evidenced by this award, the NRC staff has the dedication and commitment that make the NRC a great place to work.

The NRC was also recently recognized as a "Best Diversity Company" by the readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology. Reader survey results highlighted the NRC for the agency's strong support of women and minorities, attention to work/life balance, and commitment to supplier diversity.

These two awards highlight what we in the National Capital Region have known for a long time—the NRC is a top-notch employer. With its headquarters offices located in my district in Rockville, Maryland, I commend the NRC for its recent achievements and I applaud the agency's dedication to its employees while enabling the Nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes and ensuring that people and the environment are protected.

#### HONORING HARRY BELAFONTE FOR A LIFETIME OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise Harry Belafonte, legendary musician and world renowned entertainer, for a lifetime of activism for equality and human rights for people across the globe. His passion, sincerity, and empathy for those who are overlooked and underprivileged have inspired many to act and have brought about significant change in our society.

Harry Belafonte's courage to speak out against the war in Iraq, to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and to fight for an end of the AIDS epidemic is a mirror to his integrity and undying commitment to improving society. Amy Goodman reflects on his endless service in her article "Harry Belafonte, The Lion at 80" published by Carib News. Harry Belafonte is a true humanitarian for his lifetime of endless work for all.

[From the Carib News, Apr. 3, 2007]

HARRY BELAFONTE, THE LION AT 80

(By Amy Goodman)

Harry Belafonte just turned 80. The "King of Calypso" was the first person to have a million-selling album and the first African-American to win an Emmy, and is perhaps the most recognizable entertainer in the world. On Saturday, March 3, I attended his birthday party at a restaurant adjoining the New York Public Library.

The setting seemed very appropriate, as Belafonte himself is a living library of not only the civil rights movement but of liberation struggles around the world. In 1944, just before shipping out as a U.S. Navy sailor in World War II, he was banned from the Copacabana nightclub in New York. Ten years later, he headlined there. He knew Rosa Parks, Paul Robeson and Eleanor Roosevelt. He corresponded with the imprisoned Nelson Mandela when the U.S. government considered the South African leader a terrorist.

Belafonte was a close confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He spoke daily with King. The FBI was listening. Taylor Branch, the award-winning author of a trilogy of books on King, was at Harry's party. Belafonte describes how Bunch's final book in the trilogy, "At Canaan's Edge," uncovered extensive FBI wiretaps of their conversations.

For fighting for the right to vote and to end segregation, Belafonte says: "We were looked upon as people who were insurgents, that we were doing things to betray our nation and the tranquility of our citizens. That engaged the FBI. Everything we talked about was tapped." The FBI even went to his house when he was away and frightened his

wife and children. He tells me: "The essential difference between then and now is that no previous regime tried to subvert the Constitution. They may have done illegal acts. They may have gone outside the law to do these, but they did them clandestinely. No one stepped to the table as arrogantly as George W. Bush and his friends have done and said, 'We legally want to suspend the rights of citizens, the right to surveil, the right to read your mail, the right to arrest you without charge.'" His criticism is not limited to President Bush (whom he called, while visiting President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, "the greatest terrorist in the world").

President Bill Clinton crashed Belafonte's birthday party, which was taking place as the Democratic presidential contenders battled for the African-American vote. Sens. HILLARY CLINTON and BARACK OBAMA were in Selma, Ala., for the 42nd anniversary of the famous voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery. [Bill Clinton went to Selma to join his wife for the commemoration.]

In his remarks, Clinton toasted Harry: "I was inspired by your politics more than you can ever know. Every time I ever saw you after I became president, I thought that my conscience was being graded, and I was getting less than an A. And every president should feel that way about somebody as good as you."

I asked Harry how he felt about Clinton showing up. "I'm very flattered, OK, but I'm mindful of all the things that need to be done." In his succinct reply, a lifetime of struggle remembered, a keen edged skepticism, "He knows what I think. He said I didn't give him an A." I then asked him about both the Clintons and OBAMA going to Selma.

"We are hearing platitudes, not platforms. What do they plan to do for people of color, Mexicans, for people who are imprisoned, black youth? What are their plans for the Katrinas of America?"

In 1965, Belafonte was on the original Selma march with Dr. King before they reached Montgomery. Jude's Catholic Church offered its grounds to the thousands of marchers. Belafonte called in artists from around the country. Tony Bennett came, as did Pete Seeger (both were at Harris birthday party), Sammy Davis Jr., Mike Nichols, the conductor Leonard Bernstein, Odetta and Joan Baez. In the rain, they built their stage in the mud with donated caskets from local mortuaries.

The stakes were incredibly high. People were shot and killed, people were beaten. Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was fatally shot by Klansmen while driving marchers back to Selma. Weeks before, police shot a man named Jimmie Lee Jackson, who later died. Despite all that, Belafonte says that the stakes are higher today.

Like the two stone lions that guard the New York City Public Library, Harry Belafonte—fierce, fearless, and focused—protects the soul of struggle. Even as he enters his ninth decade, this lion does not sleep tonight.

#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole  
House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1867, the National Science Foundation Authorization Act, which will reauthorize the National Science Foundation, NSF, for the next 3 years.

H.R. 1867 will continue NSF funding on a 10-year doubling path, establish pilot programs to help improve funding rates for our young researchers, and encourage NSF to foster a relationship between academia and industry in order to improve the competitiveness of research conducted in the United States.

The National Science Foundation, created in the 1950s supports critical science and engineering research conducted at over 2,000 institutions across the Nation, which involves roughly 200,000 researchers, teachers, and students. Despite its relatively small size, NSF has an important impact on scientific and engineering knowledge and academic capacity. While NSF represents only 4 percent of the total Federal budget for research and development, it accounts for 20 percent of all basic research conducted at colleges and universities, and 50 percent of non-life science basic research at academic institutions. In fact, NSF is the only Federal agency that supports all fields of basic science and engineering research.

NSF invests in the best ideas of its scientists, engineers and educators working at the frontiers of knowledge, and across all fields of research and education. Their mission is designed to maintain and strengthen the vitality of the United States science and engineering enterprise.

In addition, NSF strives to improve its science and education collaboration at early stages in the education cycle. Science and math at the K through 12 level is becoming more interactive and engaging for our students in order to stimulate their future interest in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM. H.R. 1867 would increase funding for certain NSF education programs including authorizing the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Math and Science Scholarship Act, H.R. 362. Our youth represents America's future scientists. Stimulating their interest at a young age promises the continuation and success of our future biological, physical, social and engineering scientists.

In the state of Minnesota, the National Science Foundation supports research conducted at the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic and many other academic institutions. The research conducted at these institutions has been paramount to the field of science and technology. Minnesota is proud to employ scientists, teachers, technicians and staff that address such cutting edge technology.

The research supported by the National Science Foundation touches the lives of every American; from gaining a better understanding of Alzheimer Disease to Global Climate Change and is critical to increasing our global competitiveness. It is with this commitment to the continued economic, social, and cultural well being of my district, and of the Nation, that I rise today in support of funding for the National Science Foundation for the next 3 years.

THE INNOVATION AGENDA, H.R.  
362, H.R. 363, H.R. 1867, H.R. 1868

**HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have voted in support of several important and necessary bills on science and technology that will safeguard our nation's prosperity and security in the 21st century. As global competition continues to grow, we must meet these competitiveness challenges by encouraging science and technology research and education, as well as investing in business and industry applications. We need to position ourselves to best meet the demands of the 21st-century world, which will be driven by a knowledge economy.

Currently, less than one third of 4th and 8th Grade students perform at a "proficient" level in mathematics, and 12th Grade students perform below the international average of 21 other countries in math and science knowledge. Only 15 percent of our undergraduates major in science or engineering, while for China, our major economic competitor, that figure is 50 percent, an unhealthy balance with a potential major impact on outsourcing. That is no doubt why Intel Corporation predicted that it would shift another third of its business operations overseas (leaving only one third in the U.S.), as the company follows the most highly trained and educated work force. The decline in math and science performance has led Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft Corporation, to remark that he is "terrified for our workforce of tomorrow."

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act (H.R. 362) implements the National Academies of Science report, Rising above the Gathering Storm, which recommended increasing "America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education." The bill invests in 10,000 new math and science teachers by increasing scholarships available for them, and will strengthen the skills of current teachers by offering them more training and educational opportunities. This bill puts teachers and children at the center of our renewal strategy.

It worries me that, since 1976, our investment in research has slipped by 45 percent (as a percentage of the gross domestic product). To counteract this decline, the National Academies of Science report recommended an increased and sustained commitment to long-term, basic research.

This commitment is further implemented in the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act (H.R. 363). This bill provides grants for research scientists early in their careers, when researchers do their most innovative and ground-breaking work, and funds a much-needed national coordination effort for research infrastructure needs. The National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 1867) also addresses this problem by doubling National Science Foundation funding over the next ten years, increasing our commitment to math, engineering, and science research and education.

These bills will put an end to our neglect of science and math research and education and enable us to keep our competitive and innovative edge, which has been eroding in recent

years. Our future prosperity depends on reversing this trend. Studies have shown that 85 percent of growth in U.S. income before 1950 was due to technological innovation and that in the last 60 years, technological innovation has been responsible for half of U.S. economic growth. But in the fall of 2005, scientists polled by Rep. FRANK WOLF said that we were losing ground in science and innovation, with 60 percent saying that we were "in decline" and 40 percent that we were "in a stall." Decline and stall will not ensure job growth and economic prosperity in the coming century.

But we must also apply the results of these research and education initiatives to our business and manufacturing industry, and the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act (H. R. 1868) begins this process. The bill reauthorizes the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is responsible for many breakthrough technologies of the last century, setting us on course to double its funding over 10 years. It also creates the Technology Innovation Program to allocate funds to small high-tech companies and enable them to continue their research and development until they can bring their products to the marketplace.

Our investment in science and technology research and education can reverse the bleeding away of our manufacturing base, which creates national security as well as economic risks. In recent years almost half of our new jobs have been created by low-wage employers, which lower our standard of living. If we haven't yet noticed, others have, and Canada and Australia won a Pew Research Center international poll in 2005 about the best country to go to lead a good life. Superiority in science and technology and a positive environment for new or renewed industries will result in good, high-paying jobs, and allow us to overcome the competitive advantage of countries, like China, with low-wage structures.

There is every reason to expect that we can, given sufficient investment, create new industries with good jobs to respond to our need for clean energy and energy independence, among many possibilities. I am proud to have voted to address this crisis and invest in our future prosperity, industrial strength, and national security.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
MTSU'S TENNIS COACH DALE  
SHORT

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dale Short, Middle Tennessee State University's tennis coach, upon the occasion of his retirement after 20 years with the university.

During Dale's time as head coach of MTSU's tennis program, the teams moved from competing in the Ohio Valley Conference to the Sun Belt Conference. Coach Short has coached the Blue Raiders to 383 victories, 11 regular season championships and nine conference tournament titles. Dale and his teams have also participated in eight of the last 12

NCAA Team Championships, and several athletes have made the NCAA Singles or Doubles Championships in 10 of the last 13 seasons.

Before coaching tennis, Dale racked up an impressive record as a player. He was named OVC Player of the Year twice as a student at MTSU and All-State performer as an Oakland High School student.

Director of Athletics Chris Massaro calls Dale "Mr. Tennis," and says while Dale will be missed by MTSU, he will always be a Blue Raider. In his retirement, Dale says he and his wife, Ava, are looking forward to enjoying Blue Raider athletics—especially football, basketball and baseball, the sports they couldn't watch as fans due to his busy coaching schedule.

Coach Short, I wish you the best in your retirement. As an MTSU alumnus, I'll be watching the Blue Raiders right along with you.

COMMENDING STUDENTS FROM  
HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN HIGH  
SCHOOL

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of twenty outstanding Hoosier students, Ben Anderson, Lauren Bowser, Austin Brady, Kristin Buckingham, Jesse Hawkins, Kirk Higgins, Chris Hill, Tiernan Kane, Nika Kim, Ryan Landry, Julie Lux, Rachel Morris, Jeff Neuffer, David Ostendorf, Ryan Puckett, Taylor Schueth, Matt Stein, Amy Thomas, Aleks Vitolins, and Edward Wolenty and their teacher Jill Baisinger.

These students participated in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution competition here in Washington, DC April 28–30, 2007. After winning both the state and district competitions the group competed against 50 other schools and achieved honorable mention and placement in the top ten. These students competed against a class from every state in the country and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is an annual competition in Washington, DC in which students participate in a mock-congressional hearing. Every team has six units of three or more students and each is responsible for one particular area of Congressional expertise. The students arrive prepared to give speeches in response to formal prompts and then testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges. More than 1,200 students participate each year in the national competition.

The program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and is the most extensive of its kind, reaching more than 28 million students in elementary, middle and high schools. The Students from Hamilton Southeastern High School have made their fellow Hoosiers very proud and I wish them all the best in their future pursuits.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
MEMORIAL HERMANN

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the House of Representatives' attention to the many accomplishments of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System. This year marks the system's 100th year of providing the most advanced healthcare to the people of Texas. Though the Memorial Hermann name has only been in use since 1997, the hospitals that form this great healthcare system have been a cornerstone of the Houston medical community for over a century.

Their story began in 1907 when Rev. Dennis Pevoto led an effort to purchase an 18-bed sanitarium in downtown Houston, and converted it into what would eventually become known as the Memorial Hospital System. Under its new leadership, the hospital would treat all patients, regardless of religion, race or their ability to pay—a mission that has not changed in the hospital's 100 year history.

Seven years later, prominent Houstonian George H. Hermann bequeathed nearly \$2.6 million for the construction of a hospital dedicated to treating the poor and sick of Houston. By 1925 the Hermann Hospital was accepting patients and opening a school of nursing. Eventually, the two hospitals would merge to form what is now known as Memorial Hermann.

Throughout its first 100 years, the hospitals that now form the Memorial Hermann system have been at the leading edge of medicine and technology. Their many firsts include being the first general hospital in Texas to receive penicillin (1943), performing the first cardiac catheterization in Texas (1946), being the first hospital in the nation to be air conditioned (1949), establishing the first general practice residency in Texas (1957), establishing the first hospital-based speech clinic in the South (1965), being the first community hospital in the nation to offer routine hearing tests for newborns (1969), and performing the first ever hand transplant (1992). These accomplishments and many more have brought the medical professionals of Memorial Hermann national and international recognition as one of the best in the business. In fact, Memorial was first voted a "Top 100" hospital in the nation beginning in 1996.

Today, the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System encompasses 16 hospitals employing nearly 19,000 throughout Texas. Its state-of-the-art facilities treat patients and train the nation's next generation of physicians across the state, including in my hometown of The Woodlands.

Madam Speaker, the lives this wonderful hospital has touched are countless. I congratulate them on reaching this magnificent milestone and wish them the best for their next 100 years.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 3, 2007, I requested and received a leave of absence from May 3 to May 9, 2007, due to my presence at previous commitments in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Improving Head Start Act of 2007 (H.R. 1429): Rollcall No. 277, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 278, the Sestak of Pennsylvania Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 279, the Hirono of Hawaii Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 280, the Mica of Florida Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 281, the Putnam of Florida Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 282, the Carnahan of Missouri Amendment, "aye"; and rollcall No. 283, the Shuler of North Carolina Amendment, "aye".

Rollcall No. 284, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no"; rollcall No. 285, on Passage, Improving Head Start Act, H.R. 1429, "aye"; rollcall No. 286, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 243, "aye"; rollcall No. 287, the Sullivan (OK) Amendment to Honda (CA) Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 288, the Honda of California Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 289, the Campbell of California Amendment No. 5, "no"; rollcall No. 290, the Campbell of California Amendment No. 4, "no"; and rollcall No. 291, the Garrett of New Jersey Amendment No. 11, "no."

Rollcall No. 292, the Flake of Arizona Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 293, the Matsui of California Amendment, "aye"; rollcall No. 294, the Price of Georgia Amendment, "no"; rollcall No. 295, on Passage, National Science Foundation Authorization Act, H.R. 1867, "aye"; rollcall No. 296, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 364, "aye"; rollcall No. 297, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 364, "aye"; and rollcall No. 298, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, "no."

Rollcall No. 299, on Passage, To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, H.R. 1592, "aye"; rollcall No. 300, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 1868, "no"; rollcall No. 301, on Passage, Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act, H.R. 1868, "aye"; rollcall No. 302, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 407, "aye"; rollcall No. 303, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 1025, "aye"; rollcall No. 304, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 371, "aye"; rollcall No. 305, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H.R. 1294, "aye"; and rollcall No. 306, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 370, "aye".

Rollcall No. 307, on Agreeing to the Resolution, S. Con. Res. 1, "aye"; rollcall No. 308, on Motion to Instruct Conferees, S. Con. Res. 1, "no"; rollcall No. 309, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1595, "aye"; rollcall No. 310, on Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 382, "aye"; rollcall No. 311, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 382, "aye"; rollcall No. 312, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 383, "aye"; rollcall

No. 313, on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 383, "aye"; and rollcall No. 314, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Student Loan, H.R. 890, "aye".

**EEOICPA OMBUDSMAN ENHANCEMENT AND EXTENSION ACT OF 2007****HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the EEOICPA Ombudsman Enhancement and Extension Act of 2007. I am also pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives UDALL of Colorado, SLAUGHTER, WAMP, WHITFIELD, and HASTINGS.

This important legislation is needed to extend the authorization of the EEOICPA Ombudsman, which is set to expire on October 28th of this year. The office of the EEOICPA Ombudsman was created in 2004 to help individuals making claims under Part E of the program navigate the complex and cumbersome claims process. The EEOICPA Ombudsman has proven to be an effective ally for these Cold War heroes who have contracted serious illnesses as a result of their work for the United States Government.

Since the implementation of EEOICPA, it has become tragically apparent that the program is not working as intended. Claimants face overwhelming obstacles on their road to compensation. From a complex bureaucracy, to a highly technical burden of proof, to intimidating health physics discussions—all the while dealing with the physical and emotional strains of their illnesses—obtaining compensation for many claimants has proven to be a particularly difficult process.

With that in mind, Congress created the Office of the EEOICPA Ombudsman, an independent office tasked with providing information to claimants and advising the Department of Labor concerning additional Resource Centers. However, due to objections from the Administration, language originally included in the FY05 Senate Defense Authorization that provided broader authority for the office was scaled back in favor of the language that ultimately became law. As a result, the Ombudsman was not only scheduled for sunset, but was also prohibited from serving as an advocate for claimants. It was instead restricted to a role in which its powers are limited to making inquiries on behalf of claimants. There is no question the Ombudsman has proven to be extremely valuable even in its limited capacity, but with broader authority, the Ombudsman will be that much more effective as an advocate, helping claimants receive the compensation they deserve, which, after all, is the intention of the EEOICPA program in the first place.

Today, my colleagues and I seek to provide broader authority for the EEOICPA Ombudsman by introducing this legislation. This bill extends the life of the EEOICPA Ombudsman indefinitely, expands its authority from Part E of the program to Part B, and provides contracting authority for services necessary to ful-

fill their duties. Also, this legislation expands the powers of the EEOICPA Ombudsman to act as an advocate for the claimants when the Ombudsman determines it is appropriate. One other expansion of power in this legislation is to give the Office of the Ombudsman the authority to provide recommendations to Congress about legislative changes needed to make EEOICPA work more effectively. These are all expansions that are greatly needed to help the Ombudsman build on its already valuable role, which, in turn, helps EEOICPA claimants obtain their compensation.

I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation and help improve and expand efforts to provide some measure of justice to our Cold War heroes.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. ELISHA GRAY****HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who may be little known to the Nation, but one who is a treasure to the City of Detroit. Elisha Z. Gray, born on May 1, 1917 in Arlington, TN, right outside of Memphis, celebrated his 90th birthday last week.

At the age of 18, Mr. Gray left Arlington in search of a new life in bustling Detroit. For the next 9 years, he worked on the automobile assembly lines of the famous Packard Plant on East Grand Boulevard. On many occasions during those years, he served as a butcher in Detroit's historic Eastern Market.

It was not until 1944 when Elisha received his barbers' license from Michigan Barber College, that he evolved into his true calling. Since black subjects were not allowed at his school, his first opportunity to cut a black man's hair came in 1945 when he opened the Family Barber Shop on the corner of Hazelett and Milford. In fact, I remember my father John Conyers, Sr. being one of his loyal customers when we lived around the corner from his shop on Colfax.

The Family Barber attracted some of Detroit's most powerful and influential citizens, most of whom came from the west side of Detroit. Mr. Gray not only served his more distinguished clientele, but he was equally inviting to his everyday customers from the neighborhood. The Family Barber was the centerpiece that allowed the two worlds to intersect. His shop was also used as a training ground for other young black African-American barbers who would have their first experience cutting hair for blacks. In addition, he sponsored various athletic teams which enabled the neighborhood youth to get involved in constructive recreational activities, and encouraged them to stay off the streets and out of trouble.

I was sad to hear that Elisha sold the Family Barber in 1972, but it came as no surprise that he was already pursuing a new venture. Soon, he became a real estate agent, then a broker and soon after, he established E.Z. Gray & Sons Realtors on Puritan in Detroit. Although he has long retired from the real estate

business, he still continues to work in the field even today.

He has been instrumental in inspiring and encouraging youth, and especially the young men of Detroit to follow their dreams and overcome life's challenges. He is still engaged in a lifelong passion of getting all citizens reg-

istered and voting in all elections, both local and national.

Elisha Gray is married to Mrs. Labada Elizabeth Gray with whom he celebrated 65 years of marriage with on May 5, 2007. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He also currently

serves as Chair of the Deacon Board at the Northwest Church of God in Detroit.

So, Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to celebrate the 90th birthday of a friend, a brother, and a living Detroit legend, Mr. Elisha Z. Gray.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## MAY 10

9 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine a status report on reform efforts by the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph Timothy Kelliher, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

SD-366

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1200, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act, S. 310, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, H.R. 835, to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians, and S.J. Res. 4, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States.

SR-485

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's budget performance and treatment.

SD-138

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine economic issues for America's working families and middle class.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Janet T. Neff, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, and Liam O'Grady, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on living marine resources.

SR-253

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of State and foreign operations.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on government efforts to defeat it.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Scott A. Keller, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, David George Nason, of Rhode Island, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

SD-538

## MAY 15

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Retirement and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

## MAY 16

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

- 2:30 p.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.  
SR-253
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
Business meeting to markup S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act.  
SR-428A
- 3 p.m.  
Appropriations  
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.  
SD-192
- MAY 17
- 9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.  
SH-216
- 10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine violence in the media.  
SR-253
- MAY 22
- 9 a.m.  
Armed Services  
SeaPower Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- 10 a.m.  
Armed Services  
Personnel Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-232A
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.  
SR-253
- 12:30 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Airland Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- 4 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- 5:30 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-232A
- MAY 23
- 9:30 a.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine health legislation.  
SD-562
- 10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism.  
SR-253
- 11:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- 2:30 p.m.  
Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- MAY 24
- 9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.  
SR-222
- 10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.  
SR-253
- CANCELLATIONS
- MAY 10
- 2:30 p.m.  
Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219
- POSTPONEMENTS
- 2 p.m.  
Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael J. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.  
SD-226